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TimberWorld Forest Products Inc.

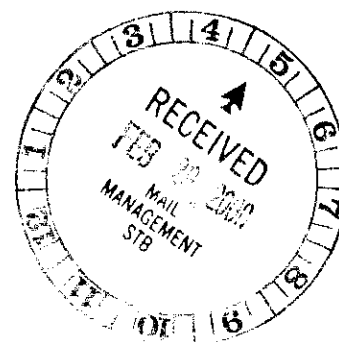
1240 Skae Drive, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada L1J 7A1 • Tel. (905) 571-4341 • Fax: (905) 571-3513

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RECEIVED
Office of the Secretary

FEB 29 2000

STB



Dear Sir,

TimberWorld Forest Products Inc. is a wholesale distributor, of lumber and panel products. We are a new user of rail service and to date most of our rail traffic has been inbound. However, we will be exporting to the U.S. by rail, on a regular basis, in the near future. The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8th, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN-BNSF combination is good for shippers, not on potential downstream effects. It should be judged on its merits and if other carriers propose mergers, then these cases ought to be evaluated on their merits.

The timing of the proposed CN-BNSF combination is not the central issue for our company. Our concern is service. We have had excellent service until now and feel the service will only improve with the merger. This merger should give us better rail service to central and western U.S.A., which is important for our company. Recent mergers have failed on service, not because of timing. The focus should be on ensuring that CN-BNSF combination, and any other future mergers, will deliver service.

We understand that a comprehensive process is in place to evaluate railroad transactions and protect the public's interest. It should fairly evaluate the CN-BNSF combination according to that process. Do not let other railroads use the Surface Transportation Board's process to protect themselves and not shippers.

Sincerely,


Jim Velacich
President